MoU with Nuclear Power Corporation of India

573. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

DR. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether French energy has agreed to sign an MoU with Nuclear Power Corporation of India;

(b) if so, whether two reactors will be set up in Maharashtra;

(c) whether this agreement could cover setting up of civil nuclear plant in India, training and safety regulations;

(d) whether idrac which is leading a delegation of 20 French companies has met Chairman, Atomic energy Commission and also met Chairman, Tata Group of Cos;

(e) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was reached between the two; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by what time the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) Consequent to signing of the intergovernmental agreement between India and France on co-operation in nuclear energy, an MoU was signed between Nuclear Power Corporation of India limited (NPCIL) and AREVA of France for engagement into discussion for setting up two to six 1650 MWe EPR units at Jaitapur in Maharashtra. The training and safety aspects will also form a part of discussions. The details, including the scope of work will emerge only after the discussions in this regard are concluded.

(d) Yes, Sir. Mrs. Anne-Marie Idrac, French Minister of State for Foreign Trade met Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission in February, 2009.

(e) and (f) During the meeting, time required by the French side for ratification of the "Co-operation agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the French Republic on the development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy" signed on 30.09.2008 was discussed. Chairman, AEC also agreed that a delegation from France can visit India for discussions with their Indian counterparts. No specific agreements were signed by Madam Idrac and Chairman, AEC.

Atomic Energy Plants

574. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to set up atomic energy plants with the same technology;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, what different technologies are being planned and from which countries they would be acquired?